

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB2004/001967

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61N1/04 A61N1/39 A61N1/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 700 281 A (STOLTE JOHN F ET AL) 23 December 1997 (1997-12-23) cited in the application column 5, line 3 - column 10, line 7	1-16, 20, 21
A	US 5 645 571 A (GILMAN BYRON L ET AL) 8 July 1997 (1997-07-08) column 4, line 55 - column 8, line 17	1-16, 20, 21
A	US 6 083 246 A (STENDAHL GARY B ET AL) 4 July 2000 (2000-07-04) column 1, line 46 - column 7, line 42	1-16, 20, 21
A	US 6 292 697 B1 (ROBERTS JONATHAN P) 18 September 2001 (2001-09-18) column 5, line 22 - column 7, line 20	1-16, 20, 21
		-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

27 September 2004

01/10/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB2004/001967

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2003/055478 A1 (GRIESSER HANS PATRICK ET AL) 20 March 2003 (2003-03-20) paragraph '0260!	1-16, 20, 21
2		

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 17-19

Claims 17-19 attempt to define a method by reference to apparatus claims. It is not clear which method steps are comprised in the subject-matter of the claim (Article 6 PCT).

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2004/001967

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 17-19 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of Invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple Inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International Application No
 PCT/IB2004/001967

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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			AU	3062597 A	05-12-1997
			EP	0956089 A1	17-11-1999
			WO	9743000 A1	20-11-1997
			US	6101413 A	08-08-2000
US 5645571	A	08-07-1997	DE	69631722 D1	08-04-2004
			EP	1419798 A2	19-05-2004
			EP	0757912 A2	12-02-1997
			US	5797969 A	25-08-1998
			US	5919212 A	06-07-1999
			DE	69628378 D1	03-07-2003
			DE	69628378 T2	27-11-2003
			EP	0756878 A2	05-02-1997
			US	5792190 A	11-08-1998
US 6083246	A	04-07-2000	NONE		
US 6292697	B1	18-09-2001	WO	0160453 A1	23-08-2001
US 2003055478	A1	20-03-2003	NONE		